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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 DHA-02 MCT-01
USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEAE-00 /070 W
----------031350Z 053930 /40
O P 031258Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2059
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5765

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

1. ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS IN PAKISTAN HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THEIR JUNE 3 EDITIONS TO SEVERAL EVENTS WHICH HAVE BUFFETED PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ON THE EVE OF HIS TALKS WITH THE PNA. MOST IMPORTANT FROM A PSYCHOLOGICAL STANDPOINT IC THE LAHORE HIGH COURT RULING ON JUNE 2 THAT THE MARTIAL LAW MILITARY COURT SYSTEM IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL (REPORTED SEPTEL). ALTHOUGH THE RULING MAY NOT HAVE AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON THE ARMY'S ROLE IN THE MARTIAL LAW
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AREAS, ESPECIALLY SINGLE
IT WILL BE APPEALED TO THE
SUPREME COURT AND MAY BE OVERTURNED, IT DOES DAMAGE THE ARMY POSITION THAT THEY HAVE ONLY BEEN ENFORCING THE CONSTITUTION AND NOT SIDING WITH THE PM AS THE OPPOSITION HAS CLAIMED.

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2. A SECOND BLOW IS THE CONTINUED REPORTING, DESPITE OFFICIAL DENIALS BY ALL OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED, THAT THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING DEAL WITH THE FRENCH IS BEING HELD UP. ALSO UNWELCOME WAS A REPORT IN THE URDU DAILY JANG IN SOME OF ITS JUNE 3 EDITIONS REPEATING THE UPI STORY THAT - ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL USG SOURCES - THE SALE OF A-7S TO PAKISTAN IS DEAD.

3. MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ON JUNE 3 REPORTED THAT SEVERAL SMALL PROCESSIONS WERE HELD ON JUNE 2 BY THE PNA IN BOTH RAWALPINDI AND KARACHI. MOST OF THE PROCESSIONS WERE PEACEFUL, BUT ONE GATHERING IN KARACHI WAS DISPERSED BY THE POLICE. AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE REPORTED THAT HE WITNESSED A WOMEN'S DEMOSTRATION IN SIALKOT ON JUNE 2 WHICH WAS FIRED ON BY POLICE; SEVERAL WOMEN WERE KILLED AND MANY MORE INJURED. DESPITE THE PIR OF PAGARO'S CALLS FOR PROCESSIONS ON JUNE 3 AND 4, PROFESSOR GHAFOOR SPEAKING, HE SAID, ON BEHALF OF THE PNA LEADERSHIP, CALLED ON PNA FOLLOWERS TO MAKE FRIDAY A DAY FOR PRAYER RATHER THAN PROCESSIONS. THE PNA ALCO ANNOUNCED THAT MUFTI MAHMUD WOULD LEAD JUMA PRAYERS AT A MOSQUE IN RAWALPINDI ON FRIDAY AND WOULD SPEAK TO THE CONGREGATION AFTERWARDS.

4. ALTHOUGH POLITICAL OBSERVERS GENERALLY EXPECTED PNA LEADERS TO BE RELEASED BEFORE TALKS START, THREE OF THE NINE, ASGHAR KHAN, ASHRAF KHAN (LZ DER OF THE SMALL KHAKSAR PARTY) AND MAULANA NOORANI, STILL REMAIN IN JAIL. THEIR CONTINUED DETENION HAS BECOME AN CONFIDENTIAL

ISSUE AS PROFESSOR GHAFOOR AND SARDAR QAYYUM ISSUED PRESS STATEMENTS SAYING THAT FAILURE TO RELEASE ALL NINE OF THE PNA LEADERS WOULD ENDANGER THE TALKS.

5. THE URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT REPORTED ON JUNE 3 THAT

KHURSHID QASURI, SON OF THE PNA LEADER M.M.A. QASURI, HAS DENIED PPP ALLEGATIONS THAT ASGHAR KHAN HAD PROMISED DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN THAT IF SECLECTED THE PNA

WOULD HALT PLANS TO CONSTRUCT THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT AND THE KARAKORAM HIGHWAY. THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN A STANDARD PART OF THE PPP REPERTOIRE SINCE THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

6. RAJA ANWAR, BHUTTO'S ADVISOR FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS, HAS CALLED FOR A "SOLIDARITY DAY OF PAKISTAN" TO BE HELD ON JUNE 8. THE DAY WOULD BE MARKED BY PROCESSIONS AND MEETINGS TO DENOUNCE IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR LACKEYS. IN

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A PRESS STATEMENT COVERED IN NEWSPAPERS ON JUNE 2
ANWAR SAID THAT THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAD DEMONSTRATED
IN FRONT OF A FOREIGN MISSION AND ITS OFFICES HAD SHOWN
THEIR LOVE FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

7. MUFTI MAHMUD HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN RAWALPINDI
ON JUNE 3 ATT1400 HOURS DURING WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THE
RELEASE OF SHERBAZ MAZARI, ONE OF THE LAST FOUR IMPRISONED
LEADERS OF THE PNA CONSTITUENT PARTIES. IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER
MAZARI'S RELEASE PRESAGES THE RELEASE OF THE THREE REMAINING
LEADERS SHORTLY. MAHMUD ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE PNA
ESTIMATES THAT THE NUMBER OF PAKISTANIS KILLED SINCE THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WERE HELD IS NO FEWER THAN
ONE THOUSAND. THIS IS A CONSIDERABLE LEAP FROM PNA FIGURES
OF SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WHICH WERE RUNNING AT ABOUT THREE
HUNDRED DEAD.

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8. THERE WAS ONLY ONE IMPLICITLY ANTI-AMERICAN ARTICLE
IN THE NEWSPAPERS WE RECEIVED JUNE THIRD. ACCORDING TO
THE URDU DAILY HURRIYAT, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER
MUMTAZ BHUTTO, SPEAKING IN KHAIRPUR, SIND, SAID THE
PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS IS THE PRODUCT OF INTERNATIONAL
MASTERS WHO WANT TO DOMINATE SMALL COUNTRIES. HE ADDED
THAT THE PM WILL NOT ALLOW SUCH DOMINATION.
CONSTABLE

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